

CLASSIFICATION OFFICE DECISION

Title of publication: Stungun

Other known title(s): How to make a homemade stun gun

OFLC ref: 1800622.036

Medium: Text File

Publisher: Not stated

Country of origin: Not stated

Language: English

Applicant: Commissioner of Police

Classification:	Objectionable except if the availability of the publication is restricted to persons who have attained the age of 18 years.
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Descriptive note: None

Display conditions: None

Date of entry in Register: 10 May 2019

Date of direction to issue a label: No direction to issue a label has been issued

Date of notice of decision: 10 May 2019

Summary of reasons for decision:

‘Stungun’ was submitted for classification on behalf of the Commissioner of Police, under s13(1)(ab) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993. The unrestricted availability of this publication is likely to be injurious to the public good. The document outlines how to make and use an electric shock device, which is capable of causing physical pain and harm, and potentially even death. While the document does not appear to have criminal intent, and gives warning on the dangers associated with using the device, there is serious risk of injury from following the instructions in this document, in both making the device described and using it on other people. Given that young people are still developing their cognitive abilities, including risk-assessment, it is not unreasonable to consider them as having a higher risk of causing serious harm to themselves or others should these documents be available to them. For these reasons, ‘Stungun’ is restricted to those aged 18 and over. This is a limit on the right to freedom of expression but it is reasonable and justified in order to prevent injury to the public good.